(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Information is being collected.

(e) The offer consisted of the supply of General Dynamics' latest complete cryogenic engine and stage Centaur, for use in GSLV, without any technology transfer. Since the offer did not involve technology transfer and fell short of ISRO's requirements, negotiations with General Dynamics were terminated in March, 1990.

Indians in Afghanistan

4690. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of people of Indian origin settled in Afghanistan;

(b) what is the number of families that have migrated from Afghanistan in the wake of changing political situation in the country;

(c) whether the refugees from Afghanistan are being settled and what is the nature of assistance being provided by the Government for their resettlement in the country; and

(d) what steps have been taken by the Government for the safety of lives and property of the people of Indian origin still in Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Out of around forty thousand Afghan nationals of Indians origin settled in various parts of Afghanistan, twenty thousand persons are estimated to have left Afghanistan due to unsettled conditions.

(c) Government are in touch with some representatives of these Afghan nationals and will render all assistance considered necessary when required.

(d) Protection of the lives and property of Afghan nationals of Indian origin is the responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan with whom the matter has been discussed on several occasions.

Prime Minister's visit to RIO

4691. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI T. N. CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Heads of Governments with whom Prime Minister had discussions on international and bilateral matters during his visit to RIO summit; and

(b) the broad details of the discussions held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) At Rio, PM met the President of Brazil, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Indonesia, Mozambique and Mexico; the Prime Ministers of China, Nepal and Pakistan and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany. Bilateral issues as well as important issues including environment and development were discussed at these meetings.

Filling up of posts of Ambassadors

4692. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure of fillling the post of the Ambassadors; and

(b) whether in anticipation of vanacncy to occur process of filling the vacancy is undertaken early?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The appointments of Ambassadors

and High Commissioners are made by the Government of India at its discretion from amongst the officers of Indian Foreign Service or eminent non-officials and public figures.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Meeting with trade unions for fixation of D.A. to public sector employees

@4693. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV

SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Trade Unions are gathering in New Delhi this month to find a solution to the vexed issues of DA for public sector employees;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a scheduled meeting of the unions with the Minister concerned was postponed;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also a fact that there is a dispute between Government and the trade unions as to whether DA should be on a flat or differential rate; and

(e) if so, what are the details of steps being taken by Government to find a proper solution acceptable to unions as well as Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Tripartite DA Committee whose tenure was upto 31.7.1992 at its last meeting held on 23.7.1992 unanimously denided to recommend the following to the Government:—

(i) Industrial DA rate should be enhanced from Rs. 1.65 to Rs. 2.00 per point increase linked to AICPI 800 points w.e.f 1.1.1989.

(ii) The arrears from 1.1.1989 to 31.12.1991 would be credited to the Provident Fund of the employees to the extent of 50 per cent, 50 per cent would be disbursed in cash.

(iii) Slab system should be considered for introduction from 1992.

Overpricing by tyre manufacturers

@@4694. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has come to the conclusion that tyre manufacturers in the country have made price cartels;

(b) if so, which are the companies involved in this cartel; and

(c) what steps the Government is taking to reduce the tyre prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The BICP report is yet to be examined as it has been received only recently.

(c) There is no statutory control on tyre prices. Prices are governed through the market mechanism.

@Previously unstarred question 2819, transferred from 4th Aug 1992.

@@Previously unstarred question 3569, transferred from 10th August, 1992.